IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HUBERT KOCH icant :

Docket No.: 00-726

Serial No.: 09/719,900

S. Ip Examiner :

Filed

: December 18, 2000

1742 Art Unit :

For

: TREATMENT OF AN ALUMINUM

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## RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Action mailed January 2, 2003.

## REMARKS

In the present office action, claims 15-25 were examined. Claims 15-25 were rejected. Claims 15-25 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

## Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejected claims 15-20 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over EP 594509, Matsuo et al. (5,540,791), or Stroup (2,336,521). The Examiner noted that these references feature inclusion of the claimed elements of the aluminum base alloy of the present invention. The Examiner